

Sinclair Broadcasting Group (SGBI) plans to compel its 62 affiliate stations to broadcast an hour-long commercial-free negative documentary about John Kerry during prime-time on the verge of the national election. They are claiming that this is "news". In fact it is an hour-long unpaid advertisement for the Republican presidential candidate, George W. Bush. Sinclair earlier refused to allow its affiliates to air Ted Koppel reading the names of American soldiers killed in Iraq.

Sinclair's failure to use their federally licensed broadcast permits in a balanced fashion will go down in American history as the low-point of American journalism; if the FCC commissioners fail to regulate Sinclair appropriately, they too will go down in infamy, as will any Congress that facilitates a lenient FCC.

As a citizen, I vow that I will do everything within my legal power to limit Sinclair's future ability to promulgate propaganda in guise of news. They are a publicly traded firm, with publicly underwritten broadcast licenses. The public outcry against their abuses is huge, because their abuses threaten our American democracy.

As the responsible regulatory agency, the FCC should limit Sinclair's ability to hijack the public airwaves. This is scandalous example of how media consolidation jeopardizes our democracy.

Fred Marshall, M.D.
Rochester, New York